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Diana T Fritz 03/15/2007 03:00:41 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

March 31, 2004

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 933 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: ETTC, BEXP, PARM, PREL, PTER
Captions: None
Subject: UAEG TO BIS U/S JUSTER: EXPORT CONTROL COOPERATION WILL
CONTINUE
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 00933

SIPDIS
CXABU:
INFO: ECON AMB DCM
Laser1:
ACTION: FCS

DISSEMINATION: FCS
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MWAHBA
DRAFTED: FCS:MO'BRIEN
CLEARED: DCM:RAA CG:JDAVIS ECON:CMC

VZCZCADI334
RR RUEHC RUCPDOC RUEHDE
DE RUEHAD #0933/01 0911308
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 311308Z MAR 04
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3773
INFO RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 3908

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ABU DHABI 000933

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA AND NP/ECC/KCROUCH
USDOC FOR BIS U/S KJUSTER
USDOC FOR ITA/FCS/OIO/ANESA FOR BORR

E.E. 12958: DECL: 03/30/14
TAGS: [ETTC](#) [BEXP](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAEG TO BIS U/S JUSTER: EXPORT CONTROL
COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE

[1](#)1. (U) Classified by DCM Richard Albright for reasons
1.5(b) and (c)

[1](#)2. (U) Summary: From February 28 through March 1, Under
Secretary Kenneth Juster led a delegation from the

SIPDIS
Departments of Commerce and State to the UAE to discuss
US-UAE export control cooperative efforts and to
emphasize the need for the UAE to adopt a comprehensive
export control system. U/S Juster met with Deputy Prime
Minister of the UAE and Minister of State for Foreign

Affairs Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayed al Nahyan; Crown Prince of Sharjah Shaykh Sultan Al Qassimi; and Crown Prince of Dubai and UAE Minister of Defense Shaykh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, as well as other high-ranking UAE officials. U/S Juster explained the importance of the trade and security relationship and how an effective export control program enhances trade by ensuring the security of the supply chain and preventing the unlawful diversion of goods. The Under Secretary's message was timely in light of recent revelations that proliferators had taken advantage of Dubai's dynamic trade environment to transfer nuclear components to Pakistan, Libya, North Korea, and Iran. The overall reaction to his comments was very positive and all UAE officials look forward to future opportunities to cooperate on establishing an effective export control system in the UAE and to prevent proliferation through the UAE. UAEG officials proposed holding a regional conference on export controls in the UAE in the future once they have a good system in place. End Summary.

MEETINGS WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS IN ABU DHABI

13. (C) On February 28, Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayed told U/S Juster and the Ambassador that the UAE is committed to fighting terrorism. The UAE is an open country and there have been some diversions through the UAE reported recently, but the UAEG has and will continue to cooperate with the United States on such matters. He recognizes the need to tighten security at airports, ports and borders through the enactment of laws and regulations and welcomes the assistance of the United States on this matter. He also said the UAE is anxious to address diversion and proliferation issues because the UAE faces a direct threat from Iran and other countries. He is committed to making sure that export control legislation proceeds and is passed.

14. (C) U/S Juster also told HbZ that the United States is committed to working with the UAE to establish an effective export control system. He also indicated that the USG is seeking the UAE's adherence to the International Code of Conduct (ICOC), a supplement to the Missile Technology Control Regime. HbZ responded that the ICOC is being considered by the UAE Armed Forces Chief and he hopes they will come to a decision soon. He also cautioned, however, that the UAE wants to advance its own military capabilities so as to rely less on others in facing threats in the region.

15. (U) On February 28, U/S Juster also met with UAE Minister of State for Finance and Industry Dr. Khalfan Kharbash and Assistant Under Secretary for Political Affairs Abdullah Rashid Al-Nuaimi. Al-Nuaimi indicated that an effective export control system is vital to the strategic interests of the UAE and that the UAEG is eager to receive the additional training outlined in the agreed action plan of export control training activities. He pointed out that all appropriate UAEG officials are actively engaged in the effort to establish an export control system and there is a need to increase technical cooperation between our two countries. (NOTE: The request for additional intelligence- and information-sharing was a recurring theme throughout the meetings in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.) Dr. Kharbash said that after 9/11, there were so many issues of concern that the UAE focused on those that were most strategically important. He agreed that the time is now right for the UAE to pursue cooperation with the United States on export controls.

16. (U) U/S Juster then met with Yaqub Al Hosani, Director, Office of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who stated that the UAE had received the draft export control legislation template forwarded by the US. The draft has been circulated to the members of the December 2003 Legal Technical Exchange for their review and comment. Al Hosani stated that the year-old

UAE Federal Customs Authority seems the logical point of contact within the UAEG for export control authority

¶7. (U) Later that day, U/S Juster met with Director General of the UAE Federal Customs Authority, Mohamed Al-Mehairi. In order for the UAE to develop an export control system, this Authority must be able to coordinate various customs authorities of the seven emirates. The DG's office also provides guidance on implementation of and compliance with the GCC Customs Union that came into effect in January 2003. According to Al-Mehairi, 80% of all customs activity in the UAE occurs in Dubai. Al-Mehairi was very supportive of export control cooperation with the USG, having sent the Authority's Legal Advisor to the December 2003 Legal Technical Seminar.

¶8. (U) On February 28, U/S Juster also met with Minister of Economy and Commerce Shaykh Fahim al Qassimi who stated that we should be concerned about security but that we should not let it destroy our lives. He expressed support for U.S.-UAE cooperation on terrorist financing and export control matters.

DUBAI AND SHARJAH

¶9. (C) During a March 1 meeting in Dubai, U/S Juster, accompanied by the Consul General, commented to Crown Prince of Dubai Shaykh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum on how much he appreciated the extent of cooperation from the UAEG. MbR was very well informed of the recent USG-sponsored training event and commented on the usefulness of the program to Dubai Customs. MbR also advised that Dubai ports all have cargo inspection systems installed. (NOTE: MbR and the Dubai enforcement community strongly believe in using technology such as detection and other high-tech equipment to address export control deficiencies.) MbR said he wants the United States and the UAE to continue to work together because he does not want "bad people to come to Dubai to do bad things." MbR remarked that if Dubai were to suffer an incident, the damage to Dubai's reputation would be far worse than the implementation of any possible security measures.

¶10. (C) MbR also stressed the importance of ongoing intelligence- and information-sharing between the two countries. U/S Juster indicated the United States welcomes input from Dubai regarding their experiences in international trade and how things work in this region. The Consul General said that the United States would be looking for Dubai's and MbR's support for federal level export control legislation that was currently in the drafting stage. In response, MbR said such legislation will take time, but that unlike some of the other emirates, Dubai understands the importance of trade security. This will be important when it comes time for the various Emirates to ratify the legislation

¶11. (U) In recognition of the need to elicit support for export control legislation from as many emirates as possible, U/S Juster met with Crown Prince of Sharjah, Sultan Al Qassimi, on February 29. Al Qassimi told the U/S that the UAE, as an important transshipment hub in the region, has the infrastructure to be a leader on the issue of trade security and that it is in everyone's best interest to ensure trade security. He said he believed export controls would be most effective if handled at the federal level where such measures would be implemented faster and more efficiently.

¶12. (U) On February 29 the U/S also met with Senior Vice President, Emirates Group Security Dr. Abdullah Al-Hashemi. Emirates Group is the parent company of Emirates Airlines and DNATA (Dubai National Aviation and Tourism Authority), which processes and clears all cargo received at Dubai International Airport. Dr. Al-Hashemi assured the U/S that the Emirates Group would cooperate with the relevant authorities on issues involving trade security, offering his group's assistance to the United

States mission in taking necessary action in these matters. He pointed out that the Dubai government is working on the recent case of diversion of nuclear components through Dubai en route to Libya.

¶13. (C) The U/S then met with Shaykh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Civil Aviation Department of Dubai and Chairman of Emirates Group. Shaykh Ahmed highlighted the importance he and Emirates attached to their close relationship with the embassy and the USG. He indicated that the good relationship allowed actions to be taken more quickly when time is of the essence. He pointed out that Emirates Group chairs a committee overseeing airport security (a group that includes Director of Dubai Airport security Colonel Ahmed bin Thani, an attendee at the December 2003 Legal Technical Seminar). He said trade security, as well as other airport security measures, is essential in Dubai because the ongoing airport expansion will significantly increase the number of passengers and the amount of cargo passing through Dubai International Airport.

¶14. (U) On February 29, U/S Juster was the keynote speaker at a luncheon hosted by the American Business Council of Dubai and the American Business Group of Abu Dhabi. The luncheon was attended by approximately 80 people. The attendees asked questions concerning possible future relaxation of U.S. sanctions on Libya; the export of aircraft parts to Iran; the imposition of sanctions on Syria; and next steps in the export control cooperation between the United States and the UAE.

¶15. (U) On March 1, U/S Juster and the Consul General met with Chairman of the Dubai Ports Authority Sultan bin Sulayem. Sultan bin Sulayem told the U/S that there have been many changes and improvements at Dubai's ports. He pointed to extensive training, the installation of cargo inspection equipment, and sophisticated information management. He reported that the participants in December's WMD Identification and Awareness Training had learned a lot and were looking forward to more training. He pointed to the need for good information management systems as a way to handle the sheer volume of traffic, as well as to control and inspect goods when necessary. He acknowledged that Dubai has much to lose if there is a major incident at one of their ports or if something that causes an incident has been cleared through Dubai. The U/S told bin Sulayem that we look to Dubai on how best to implement security procedures and processes and believe that Dubai and the UAE can be leaders in this regard for the Gulf region.

¶16. (U) This cable has been coordinated with Amconsul Dubai, and cleared by U/S Juster's office, and State/NEA and NP.

Wahba